

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 03250 131630Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /018 W
----- 111378 /60

R 131535Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0096
INFO SECDEF
CINCLANT
COMNAVFORCARIB ROOSEVELT ROADS
CINCLANTFLT
CNO
USCOMSOLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 3250

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, MOPS, TD
SUBJECT: US NAVAL SHIP VISITS TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

1. DCM CONVERSATION WITH SENIOR COMNAVFORCARIB OFFICER INDICATES THAT CANCELLATION OF PROPOSED UNITAS VISIT TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO EARLIER THIS YEAR HAS BEEN INTERPRETED TO IMPOSE A FREEZE ON US NAVY SHIP VISITS TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

2. THERE IS A LONG AND PLEASANT HISTORY OF US NAVAL VISITS TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. CANCELLATION OF 1976 UNITAS VISIT WAS UNTIMELY AND UNFORTUNATE, BUT IT WAS RELATED DIRECTLY TO PRE-ELECTION SENSITIVITIES HERE WHICH ARE NO LONGER RELEVANT. THE MODERATE PEOPLES NATIONAL MOVEMENT UNDER PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS WAS RETURNED TO POWER IN THE 1976 ELECTION WITH A SOLID TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN THE PARLIAMENT AND A CLEAR FIVE-YEAR MANDATE.

3. THE EMBASSY FORESEES NO DIFFICULTY TO A NORMAL RESUMPTION OF US NAVAL VISITS FOR REFUELING AND REST AND RECREATION OF SHIP CREWS. WE UNDERSTAND THERE MAY BE A PROSPECT OF SUCH VISITS EARLY IN 1977 AND THIS EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO SEEK LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONCURRENCE AND TO SUPPORT THESE VISITS FULLY AS IN
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THE PAST. INDEED, WE WOULD LOOK FORWARD AGAIN TO

SCHEDULING OF UNITAS FLEET VISITS TO TRINIDAD.
ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL UNITAS
VISIT TO TRINIDAD IN 1975 ON EXTREMELY SHORT NOTICE
AS A REPLACEMENT PORT FOLLOWING CANCELLATION F THE
FLEETS'S SCHEDULED VISIT TO RECIFE.
FAY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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